

# WOULD MUZZLE THE NEWSPAPERS

## President Forbids His Official Family to Talk With Correspondents in Washington.

## ADOPTS THE RUSSIAN SYSTEM

Order Relating to Civil Service  
Is a Practical Repeal of That  
Law—Effect Surprising.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 19.

While the public is laughing at the effect of the order issued by the President on the eve of his departure empowering Cabinet officers to discharge from the civil service, summarily, clerks he personally knows to be inefficient, or guilty of conduct unbecoming an employee of the government, the department clerks themselves are in a state of consternation bordering on the pathetic. They realize to the fullest extent the scope and meaning of the order. It just means that, in spite of the civil service laws and regulations, the President's Cabinet officer can dismiss from the service any man objectionable in any way. It will be only necessary for incompetency to be alleged by the official at the head of a department, and off goes the head of the objectionable clerk, and that, too, without recourse to the civil service commission.

The great bulk of the outsiders, that is people not in the employment of the government, are inclined to think the order wise. One can very much doubt whether it does nullify the civil service law to a very great extent, but his friends of the law, save those who have jobs under its protection, have become distressingly few. The leading members of both parties in Congress have denounced it no longer ago than last session of Congress, and it has not worked like a charm as they had hoped. It may teach it would work. The statement is frequently made that the standard of service rendered since the civil service reform law went into effect about twenty years ago, has not been higher, if as high, as it was before the law was enacted, and appointments were made under the spoils system.

### President's Inconsistency.

Mr. Roosevelt, who was for several years a member of the Civil Service Commission, was at one time a zealous advocate of the law, and at the time of its enactment thought a young man, and while he was on the commission, indicated by thousands of acts that he was a thorough be-

The inconsistency of the President in issuing an order which, to all intents and purposes, repeals the law, is manifest. But it can scarcely be doubted that the order is in the interest of the service. Opponents of the law have always contended that a department official should have the authority to dismiss an incompetent. It has also been an issue between the party in power and the opposition. The party in power would have authority to remove Government men of the same party. That was the corner-stone of the fabric of the argument of the advocates of the spoils system. Mr. Roosevelt has always opposed that view. His

recent order, if carried out, will attain the same thing.

### Occasion of the Order.

The occasion of the order is involved in some doubt. It is said that recently a government employee, operating an automobile owned by the government, persisted in keeping in the way of the President's carriage in an offensive manner until taken in charge by a bicycle policeman. There was no way in which the man could be discharged from the service, though he is said to have admitted that he ran his auto as he did for the

purpose of having fun at the expense of the President of the United States. The President is said to have issued the order so that the man might be dismissed.

There was a story to the effect that a woman in one of the departments was being guilty of gross immoralities, and when confronted by the head of the department and threatened with dismissal, he claimed the protection of the rules of the civil service.

"We'll change the rules," exclaimed the Secretary, hotly, righteousness indignantly.

When the order was issued, the rule was changed, and the clerk was dismissed according to the story.

There can be no doubt that a deter-

Another order, issued by the President just before his departure for the South, directed Cabinet officers to make no statements to correspondents of news papers. In strongest language the President directed the members of his official staff to do the same.

This is precisely the system which is in use in Russia. The representatives of the Associated Press in St. Petersburg

given free access to government officials and news is not withheld from him in any way. But the correspondent of any individual foreign paper is not allowed to have any more information than is given representatives of the Russian press. The object of the system in Russia is to prevent the Russian people obtaining exact information as to the acts of officials of the government.

and there is always danger of adverse criticism of governmental policy, as revealed by correspondents representing home papers with opinions.

Our press associations are strictly non-partisan. They will not handle any matter in a partisan way, and reflect much of

the liveliest news of the national capital because it is of a partisan character.

It would look as though the President were willing to forgo the benefit of friendly criticism in order to escape the hostile criticism of the anti-administration press. For some reason, not ex-

tirely apparent. It must be confessed, there are few of these now. The wonderful wave of popularity on which Mr. Roosevelt is riding shows no signs of breaking. He will doubtless be allowed to proceed even much further than he has

But it does no harm to say now that his order, excluding correspondents from seeing Cabinet officers, is regarded by sober-minded thinking people as dangerous, as a

The members of the British cabinet are accessible to representatives of the British press and it is said even in Berlin news-

## DECREASE IN BIRTH RATE

**ALARMS BISHOP OF LONDON**  
(By Associated Press.)  
**LONDON, October 19.**—The falling

**A Silk Sale Worthy of Your Consideration Is On To-Day.**

(And the Silks are displayed in the East Window.)  
We predict that this will be the banner Silk-selling day of the year.

## These Friday Bargain Sales

mean considerably more than you think. It's a whole day of economy for you—a whole day among bargains of unusual worth. Come to-day!

Plain and Changeable Taffeta Silks, 58c and 75c yard.

Fancy Colored Silks, 49c yard.

Colored Moire Velours, 75c yard.

Colored Striped Chiffon Taffeta Silks, 59c yard.

A new showing of Kimono Silks, added to those received earlier in the season, making in all a very striking display, 50c yard.

Select designs in Taffeta Silks, 79c yard.

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THE THALMER STORE  
CATERING TO THE PEOPLE

little in evidence was like the one he carries. Dr. Thomas, the attending physician on Maurice Francis, stated that the death was due to the gunshot wound received. He was also examined by the defense as to the dying declaration of Francis, as was proven yesterday by other witnesses. It was to the effect that Francis stated to him several hours after that he did not see who shot him, it was so quick, like a flash of lightning to him. He afterwards said before dying, and while in a semi-conscious condition, though periodically rational, that he thought Richards shot him, as he was jealous.

This testimony weakened the dying declaration, and is the first material point scored by the defense.

It is generally conceded that the prosecution is making a very strong case.

**ASHES OF HENRY IRVING  
NOW IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY**

(By Associated Press.)  
LONDON, October 13.—The ashes of Sir

Henry Irving, enclosed in a plain, unken coffin, are now lying in the chapel of St. Faith, Westminster Abbey, awaiting to-morrow's elaborate ceremony of interment in poets' corner. Their removal from the residence of the Baroness Burdett Coutts, took place at 6 o'clock this evening.

The scene was most impressive as the procession moved, and disappeared among the gloomy, time-worn cloisters. As the procession entered the great organ softly played the dead march from "Saul." When the music stopped, a short prayer was said by the dean.

**BITTER FIGHT LOOKED FOR  
OVER DISPENSARY LAW**

ASHEVILLE, N. C., October 19.—With the issuing of an order of Judge Pritchard in the Federal Court to-day, commanding the members of the Board of Control of Union county, South Carolina, to show cause why the Bryce bill should not be declared unconstitutional, began what is expected to be one of the most bitter-fought and important cases coming from South Carolina in several years. The bill bears directly upon the dispensary question in the State and in it the opposing forces, dispensary and anti-dispensary will be arrayed against each other.

**LEDGE CORDIAL SUPPORT  
TO FALL RIVER OPERATIVES**  
(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, October 15.—The last resolution adopted to-night by the United Hat and Mill Workers of America, before finally adjourning their convention in this city, was one offering moral and financial support to the mill operatives of Fall River under any and all circumstances. President John Golden, later explained that this action was taken for the reason that the unions may not see fit to accept the offer of five per cent. increase in wages, offered by the Manufacturer's Association.

**NECKLACE NOT STOLEN.**

Girl Had Hidden Jewelry. Hence

man had hidden jewelry, hence Cause for Alarm.  
(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, October 18.—A girl employee's action in hiding place of diamond jewelry overnight resulted in an alarm to-day that a necktie worth several thousand dollars had been stolen. Until the girl herself arrived to reveal the missing jewelry's hiding-place William Hochberg's manufacturing jewelry establishment in 27th Avenue was closed to everyone except detectives and employees, the latter being positively forbidden to

The girl, who works as a polisher, appeared at work late, and said that, not having finished burnishing the jewelry before the safe was closed last night, she had hidden it.

**DIRECTORS NOT AWARE  
HOW BANK WAS RUN**

(By Associated Press.)

PITTSBURGH, Pa., October 13.—Investigation into the condition of the Enterprise National Bank, which was closed by the Comptroller of the Currency yesterday, shows beyond doubt that the in-

From a representative of the bank, it is learned that since the investigation started, paper and notes have been brought to the attention of the directors which they never saw before. Among these papers

re two notes bearing the name of W. H. Andrews, who to-day stated positively that he had no paper in the bank. The amount of the State money supposed to be in the bank will probably reach \$782,000, but the exact amount will come down yet.

...be known. The State to-day entered judgment against the bank directors on their individual bonds to secure its deposits. These securities can be collected at once.

**EMPEROR WILLIAM'S AUTO  
IN SERIOUS COLLISION**  
(By Associated Press.)  
BERLIN, October 19.—Emperor William had a narrow escape from serious injury when his automobile collided with a truck.

ry this evening. His Majesty was crossing the street in front of the cathedral in an automobile car, when an automobile collided with the Emperor's car, with a considerable shock.

Emperor's William's car took him into the court of the castle. The other car was disabled.

Sunday 9:30, 11:30, 3:30. Round trip, IL  
Phone 2823 for private cars.

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From a representative of the bank, it is ascertained that since the investigation started, paper and notes have been brought to the attention of the directors which they never saw before. Among these papers were two notes bearing the name of W. H. Andrews, who to-day stated positively that he had no paper in the bank.

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*..Battle of the Crater..*

A SPECIAL FEATURE OF

*Sunday's Times-Dispatch*

will be a graphic story of the Battle of the Crater by Captain John C. Featherston, a participant in that wonderful clash of arms.

This article is especially appropriate at this time, for it is known that the Battle of the Crater will be fought over again on the same old grounds in mimic warfare as a feature of the Confederate re-union to be held in Petersburg next week.